



ORMISTON SIX VILLAGES ACADEMY



18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to begin with a huge thank you to the very high number of students (over one-quarter of the academy) who helped out at yesterday's Open Evening, either as a tour guide, a department helper, a DoFE helper or as a musician or speaker. Your children were fantastic ambassadors for the academy and I am incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves and the high number of compliments we received. Thank you also for transporting your children to and from the academy for this event; we are grateful for your support.

Reading the feedback from our visitors, I am brimming with pride for your children and would like to share some of the feedback left by visiting families:

"Year 8 Jessie was an excellent tour guide"

"We really liked the school tour, the tour guide was excellent and friendly"

"Claudio was an excellent guide"

"Our tour guide, Reece, was amazing"

"Lilianna showed us round and she brilliant. The school is amazing"

"Our tour guide, Vanessa, was lovely, she couldn't have done the tour any better"

"Erin was our tour guide and was excellent, full of information"

"Elliot was our tour guide, he was friendly and kind"

"Y8 Fred was an excellent tour guide! He was friendly and did an excellent tour"

Year 11 Poetry Performance at Chichester Festival Theatre

A letter regarding this compulsory trip on 2nd October was issued last academic year. We still require consent to be confirmed on Parent Pay from some Year 11 parents and carers. Please see the attached details of the trip which takes place during the school day, is free of charge and is directly related to the GCSE course that Year 11 are studying. Please provide consent by 25th September.

Year 10 and 11 Information and Careers Evening – 30th September, 5.45pm for a prompt 6pm start

Following on from last week's 'save the date' and information on this key event, please can you complete the form below to confirm you and your child's attendance. Aside from the Careers part of the evening, which will have representatives from the major college and sixth form providers, essential information will be shared relating to the year group your child is in. Working in partnership with parents and carers is vital and therefore we expect 100% attendance of families at this event. The Year 11 mock exam timetable will also be shared.

[Year 10 Information and Careers Evening - Wednesday 30th September – Fill out form](#)

[Year 11 Information and Careers Evening - Wednesday 30th September – Fill out form](#)

Year 11 Period 6 sessions

Attendance at English and maths period 6 sessions has been excellent and I am very grateful for your support with encouraging your child to attend.

We have noted, however, a dip in attendance at Science period 6 sessions on Thursdays; please remember that science is also a compulsory core subject. If your child isn't currently attending science sessions, please discuss this with them.

Year 7-10 Enrichment Fair

At our academy, you will already know that education extends far beyond the classroom. We are passionate about developing the whole child, which is why we encourage every student to take part in at least one enrichment club each week.

Whether your child is interested in sport, music, the arts, technology, leadership, reading, debating, or wants to try something completely new, there is something for everyone. Enrichment clubs are a fantastic way to discover new talents, build confidence, make new friends and create lasting memories.

To help students find the perfect club, we will be holding our annual **Enrichment Fair on Tuesday 22nd September**. Students in Years 7-10 will have the opportunity to visit stalls, meet current club members, learn more about the activities on offer and sign up for the clubs that interest them.

Many of our most successful and confident students began by taking a chance on a club they knew little about. We hope every child will seize the opportunity to get involved and make the most of the wide range of experiences available this term.

Please take a few minutes to explore the programme with your child before Tuesday and encourage them to choose a club that excites them. You can view the Autumn 2026 enrichment programme below. One club could spark a new passion, develop a lifelong skill, or lead to a new friendship.

[Enrichment programme Autumn 2026](#)

Year 8 Fontwell Racecourse trip

A reminder to parents and carers of those students who have been selected to attend the maths enrichment activity at Fontwell Racecourse on Tuesday 22nd September, that your child needs a packed lunch and a coat. If your child is eligible for free school meals, a packed lunch will be provided to them. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs May on lmj@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk.

The visit will give students the opportunity to develop and apply their mathematical skills in a different and stimulating environment. Through a range of practical activities, students will be encouraged to use their problem-solving, reasoning and numeracy skills while experiencing learning outside of the usual classroom setting. We hope this will be an enjoyable and valuable opportunity for pupils to see how mathematics can be applied in real-life situations.

Year 7 – IT Provision

I am grateful to the IT team and Mr O'Connor for working hard to ensure that all our students can now access their emails, Sparx and other online platforms. Your children can now complete any homework set on any of the Sparx platforms (Sparx Maths, Sparx Science and Sparx Reader) so please check regularly that these are being completed.

Year 7 – Arbor Parent app

Thank you for signing up on the Arbor parent portal and app. I was delighted to review logins and see that the vast majority of you are logging in regularly.

There are still a few year 7 parents and carers who have yet to complete the registrations on the Arbor portal and app. The instructions were issued previously and can be found on the website [Ormiston Six Villages Academy - Arbor](#).

If you are having any difficulties in getting onto the app, please contact Mrs Canadas on ccs@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk and she will be able to help you. Please note that it is not possible on Arbor

for both parents to share the same email address; also, you need to log in using the email address that has been provided to us, you won't be able to log in with a different one.

Absence reporting

Please be reminded of the requirement to provide a reason for your child's absence before 8.20am on each day of absence. This can be done via 01243 546854, via osva_attendance@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk or by using the **Arbor parent portal and Arbor app**.

On Arbor, parents and carers can log same-day absences for their children by accessing the Attendance section, input the absence details and submit the request. Many parents find this a simple and convenient way to provide this information.

Instrumental Lessons – all years

Lessons on drum kit, piano, keyboard, and electric, bass or acoustic guitar will start before the end of September. If you have yet to apply for your child and you would like them to start lessons this term please complete the form from the link [Ormiston Six Villages Academy - Music tuition](#).

An invoice will be set up on parent pay, and following payment students will then be added to the timetable. All year 7's who are starting lessons will be shown where paper copies of the lesson times are posted on the Music Department noticeboard, and where the lessons take place.

We are also pleased to advise through our partnership with West Sussex Music, we are able to offer woodwind lessons from this academic year. As this is an area we would like to build upon, West Sussex have offered a free taster lesson for any students who have not had lessons in flute, clarinet or saxophone before. An instrument will be provided for this. If you are interested in your son/daughter taking part in this, please complete this form: [Taster woodwind instrumental lessons – Fill in form](#)

If you have any questions about instrumental lessons please email Mr Munt dmt@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk.

Lockdown drill

Next week we will be conducting a routine lockdown drill. Students will be made aware of the drill in advance and staff will carefully guide them through the procedure so that everyone understands what to do. These drills are purely precautionary and an important part of our emergency planning, providing an opportunity to practise procedures in a calm, controlled and supportive environment.

School photos – Years 7, 9 and 11

The proofs of the individual photos taken of Year 7, 9 and 11 students have been distributed.

Advance notice for Year 7 parents – Tutor meetings – 21st October – save the date

The appointment booking system will open in due course and you will receive a notification. It is essential that you attend this event to discuss how your child is settling into Year 7. Mr Case will also be sharing important information that every family needs to know. Please save the date.

OAT Parent Survey

As a school and a trust, we value the views of our parents and carers. Your views really do matter.

As part of our trust-wide commitment to listen to our parents and carers, we warmly invite you take part in a trust wide survey. This is being shared with the parents and carers of all the children and young people that attend an Ormiston Academy Trust school.

As a trust we have committed to acting on the results of this survey to make Ormiston Academy Trust an even better place for the children and young people in our schools.

The survey will take about ten minutes to complete and can be accessed on a phone or tablet via the link that accompanies this communication.

The results of this survey will:

- Be shared with trustees, trust leaders and school leaders and will be used to inform our future approach
- Be shared at a school level to ensure you are informed on the survey responses and our actions as a result. All with aim of enabling, developing and supporting our staff teams to deliver excellent outcomes for the children and young people in our schools.
- Be used to shape our collective work and future priorities at a school and trust level.

I would be very grateful if you would complete the survey by following this link:

- <https://www.qdpsurvey.co.uk/OnlineQuestionnaire?code=31737-71428-38392398>

Free School Meals

We have been informed by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) that, over the summer period, they carried out eligibility checks for all Free School Meal (FSM) claims. As a result of these checks, some families no longer meet the current eligibility criteria and their FSM allowance has been removed.

If your child's FSM entitlement has been withdrawn and you believe this decision is incorrect, we would encourage you to reapply directly through WSCC as soon as possible using the link below:

[Free school meals - West Sussex County Council](#)

We appreciate that this may cause concern and inconvenience for some families, and we sincerely apologise for any disruption this may have caused.

Please be assured that we are committed to supporting families and are working closely with those affected to ensure any concerns are resolved as a matter of urgency. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Key dates this half-term

Wednesday afternoons - Head of School drop in (contact Mrs Canadas ccs@ormistonsixvillages.org.uk for an appointment)

30th September	-	Y10 and Y11 information and careers evening
15 th October	-	Y7 and Y8 Halloween disco
21 st October	-	Y7 setting in tutor appointments

Yours faithfully



Josh Case
Head of School